

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from California follow me. She has a very lengthy statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may take 5 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CAPITOL HILL POLICE FACE A FORCE REDUCTION

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the Hill just came out today, and the headline is "Capitol Police face loss of 400 in 2001 budget cut."

The U.S. Capitol Police force would be reduced by more than 400 officers under a bill approved Tuesday by the House Appropriations Committee.

And then later on there is a quote from John Lucas, chairman of the U.S. Capitol Police Labor Committee. He says:

This budget cut comes on the heels of promises to improve Capitol security for members, staff, visitors and the officers who protect this wonderful institution.

"Where is the passion of yesterday's promises? What happened to the commitments to the officers who protect you and to their survivors?" he continued, in an attempt to invoke the concern expressed by Congress shortly after the 1998 shootings.

That was, of course, Officer Chestnut and Agent Gibson. Today, at 3:30, there will be an appointment of a new police chief. What a way for the new police chief to be sworn in.

I spoke to our Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Ziglar, about this. Senator BENNETT, Senator FEINSTEIN, with key positions, care deeply about this issue. I find this to be, in the years I have been in the Senate, one of the most unconscionable decisions that has ever been made.

I just for the life of me don't get it, albeit I have my own emotion on this question, and I have spoken on the floor many times.

In July, almost 2 years ago, we lost two police officers. We said we were going to do everything we could to make sure it would never happen again, albeit it could never be 100-percent certain. One of the things we certainly were going to make sure of was that there were two officers at every one of these posts, because if one deranged person shows up—especially if 20 or 30 people are coming through the door. Senator GRASSLEY is my neighbor over at the Hart Building. This happens at the Hart Building sometimes in the middle of the day. This is just simply unacceptable.

I am telling you that there is an unbelievable amount of bitterness right now in the police force over what is happening with this vote. They have been making the requests. They have been begging. They have been pleading.

I think very soon we will start to at least get to the point where we have two police officers at these posts because people are coming in and then one deranged person might show up sometime. That is all you need. Then, God knows what will happen.

In order to get there, there are one or two things that have to happen: More money has to go into overtime; the slack could be taken up that way; or more officers have to be hired.

Now we have a headline that they are going to cut 400.

This could be one of these sorts of inside games where the House says to the Senate: Look, we need to do this to show—whatever. I don't know what they are trying to show, frankly. Then you will put it back in. You save us on the Senate side.

I will tell you something. Maybe it is my background in community organizing, but my hope is that they get to decide for themselves. This is a union. My hope is that the Capitol Hill Police Union will hold a press conference. I hope they are there in numbers. I hope they make it crystal clear to people who voted for these cuts that they are not going to let you play around with their lives: We are not going to let you profess such concern for us and our families and then put us in a position where we not only cannot protect the public but we cannot really protect ourselves, which is absolutely outrageous.

I do no damage to the truth when I say this on the floor of the Senate. As a matter of fact, I initially made the mistake, I say to the Senator from California, of listing some of the door posts. I was then told by the police to not do that because they worry that you then create a security risk. So I don't do that anymore. But I can tell you that I observe it all the time. This House vote is just so damaging to people's morale. It is not right. It is going to create a dangerous situation. It is already not a good situation. But we are going to see a lot of people leave this police force. We are. They are going to join D.C. police, or go wherever; they are going to leave.

Hopefully, in the Senate we can be there and inject some sanity into this appropriations process.

But I will tell you one thing. I think this union and these police officers should take on this vote. They have been patient. They have been patient.

I think this is just absolutely unconscionable.

Two years ago, we went through hell. There was such emotion. We made this commitment. What a short memory. What a short memory.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Resumed

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I now turn my attention to this bill. I thank both the Senator from Iowa and the Senator from New York, two exceptional Senators.

I am going to divide my remarks into two parts. We have some other Senators, Senators FEINGOLD and FEINSTEIN, who are going to talk at great length about what happened in the conference committee. I am going to speak to that briefly. I shall not take a lot of time. But I say to both Senators that I will be pleased to come back later on this afternoon, if you need me, because I think we need to put a focus on what happened.

I am in some disagreement with both my colleagues for, I hope, substantive reasons, which I will go into in a moment on the overall bill. It is not because of either one of the Senators on the floor managing this bill. But we had an amendment—Feinstein-Feingold, Feingold-Feinstein; I don't know the order. It doesn't matter; they are together—regarding the HIV/AIDS drugs in Africa. We will go into the specifics of the purpose of this amendment in a moment. But the purpose was to figure out a way that these countries could afford the combination of drugs that could help treat this illness so people wouldn't die.

I strongly support the amendment my colleagues introduced. The amendment was accepted by the bill's managers, Senators ROTH and MOYNIHAN. It was simple. It basically prohibited the U.S. Government—history is not very inspiring, frankly—or any agent of the U.S. Government from pressuring African countries to revoke or change laws aimed at increasing access to HIV/AIDS drugs so long as the laws in question passed by these countries adhered to existing international law and international standards.

In other words, this amendment said to the executive branch—colleagues, I am being bipartisan in my condemnation, if you will—stop twisting arms, White House and others, of African countries that are basically using legal means to improve access of their citizens to HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals. I thank Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator FEINGOLD for this amendment.

One would think this effort to make anti-AIDS drugs more cheaply available to citizens in African countries—so long as these countries didn't violate any WTO rules—would be acceptable to every Senator and every Representative and every human being.

I think for a while the administration and others leaned on some of these governments to not use "parallel" importing in addition to local manufacturers, which is sort of interesting because some have legislation dealing with this subject. In other words, they would basically go to other countries and try to import FDA-approved drugs back from other countries at much less cost.

The "why" of this is because 13 million African lives have been lost since the onset of this crisis. Today, there are some 23 million African people infected with the AIDS virus—men, women, and children.

This was a modest amendment. This was the right thing to do. I don't blame